49th Year, Issue 7

July 2017

CHRISTIAN

LETTER BIBLE

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The Christian Worker is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.



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Production editor: Jon Galloway www.churchesofchrist.co.uk https://www.facebook.com/ christianworkeruk Deadline: 21st of each month

The month of June seems to be a very popular month for weddings. My parents were married in June, Arlene and I were married in June, and our son Scott was married to Rachelle in June.

Marriage doesn't seem to have the respect in western culture that it once did. Couples more often than not forsake marriage for 'living together' and with that has come the designation of 'partner' rather than 'spouse' for the person you live with. Add to this the redefining of marriage to include same-sex couples and we quickly see that the idea of marriage today is far different from that which we find in the pages of scripture.

It is good and proper that we recognise those who have achieved milestones in their married lives. Someone said to me recently that with the way marriage is treated by so many, those who have been married fifty and sixty years will become very few and far between in the future.

We have highlighted many couples over the past few years who have celebrated their fiftieth anniversaries. In this issue we recognise **Geoff and Yvonne Daniell** who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on 17th June.

That same day my parents, **Joe and Barbara Galloway**, celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. We just returned from visiting the USA to celebrate that milestone in their lives. Below is a picture of my parents with their children and spouses.

We pray that marriage will once again be held in high esteem.

Jon



Spotlight: More Bible study websites

When I began preparing lessons and speaking for congregations, I used a portable typewriter and books. Personal computers were just appearing and were very expensive. The Internet existed but was used primarily by universities with a phone-cradle dial-up system. I cannot imagine doing without a computer and the Internet today, especially when it comes to Bible study and lesson preparation. Yes, I still have a library that is quite extensive, although I am more and more purchasing eBooks (as they are cheaper and I am able to download them immediately).

Almost as soon as we published the March *Christian Worker* I began to receive more

recommendations for good Bible study websites and so we thought we would devote another 'Spotlight' to this subject.

Several have

recommended a website that I had not noticed or used: <u>blueletterbible.org</u>. Here is their summary of what they offer:

Searchable Online Bible with Study Resources.

Blue Letter Bible is a free, searchable online Bible program providing access to many different Bible translations including: KJV, NKJV, NLT, ESV, NASB and many others. In addition, in-depth study tools are provided on the site with access to commentaries, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other theological resources. Browse the site to see all of the Bible study tools available. Translations available: King James Version, New King James Version, New Living Translation, New International Version, English Standard Version, Holman Christian Standard Bible, New American Standard Bible, New English Translation, Revised Standard Version, American Standard Version, Young's Literal Translation, Darby Translation, Webster's Bible, Hebrew Names Version, Reina-Valera 1960, Latin Vulgate, Westminster Leningrad Codex, Septuagint, Morphological Greek New Testament, and Textus Receptus.

The commentaries are listed by author, or you can access them through a Bible

reference, and include primarily works that were published many years ago but still have some value. Included are Alfred Edersheim, Matthew Henry,

J.B. Lightfoot, Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon, and even Isaac Newton.

They also have on offer several daily devotionals as well as daily Bible reading plans. There are apps available for both iPhone and Android.

Another good resource that many use is <u>studylight.org</u>. Their summary of what they offer is on their website:

Welcome to StudyLight.org, the largest collection of online Bible study tools and resources. We provide advanced Bible search and study tools for FREE so you can find Bible verses faster and then understand them better. StudyLight has more Bible commentaries, encyclopedias, dictionaries, lexicons



and original language tools than any other website on the internet! Explore our site and benefit from all the amazing features and resources that will help to illuminate the Word of God like never before.

This website features four original

language study tools, six



concordances, 27 Bible dictionaries, eight Bible encyclopaedias, 107 Bible commentaries, historical writings (including Josephus, Edersheim, and Foxe's Book of Martyrs), illustration resources, as well as daily Bible reading plans and devotionals.

The *Bible Study Textbook* commentary series published by College Press, have been useful to many through the years. These are no longer in print but can be downloaded for free as a portable document file (pdf) from <u>http://</u> fliphtml5.com/bookcase/mmhg (this can also be found at the 'free

> resources' section of collegepress.com).

We have featured websites from Christians in the UK in the pages of the Christian Worker, but I would be remiss if I did not include two others which have not been highlighted.

Jim McGuiggan is now retired and living in Nashville, Tennessee. He is still writing and

Of interest to many is the extensive collection of Bible commentaries: it hosts the commentaries by James Burton Coffman (published by Abilene Christian University Press), the

Pulpit Commentaries (by Joseph Exell), the Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament, William Barclay's Daily Study Bible, the Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools and Colleges, G. Campbell Morgan's Exposition on the Whole Bible, the People's New Testament by Barton Johnson, as well as individual book commentaries by J.W.

McGarvey, Robert Haldane, Gary Hampton, and Foy Wallace.

Many of these are useful commentaries, although to get the latest in Bible research the newer

commentaries need to be purchased. This website does give some of the good older commentaries that still have value.



posting articles several times each

week to his webpage: <u>https://</u>

jimmcguiggan.wordpress.com. He also has a YouTube channel called "McGuiggan Reflections" (https://www.youtube.com/ channel/UCH7xt-lJ12cWCqYeB9597eQ) which contains half-hour videos of Jim speaking on various Bible subjects.



Tony Coffey and the congregation in Dublin have a website which features lessons and **Bible studies:** bibleanswers.ie. Tony is currently

producing short Bible videos on various topics, which can be found on the 'video lessons' page.

Congratulations!

Livingston: We are delighted to announce **Matthew Ritchie** came to the fellowship in Livingston, was warmly welcomed and responded to the preaching and teaching of the good news about Jesus. Matt was baptised on Tuesday, 30th May by John Mooney.

Mark Montgomery



<u>Summer Lane (Birmingham)</u>: We are happy to inform you that Michael Brooks was immersed into Jesus on Sunday, 18th June. Please keep him in your prayers as he starts his new life in the Lord.

Trevor Ralph



Bristol: Congratulations to **Geoff and Yvonne Daniell** on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 17th June.

Trevor Williams



<u>Manchester</u>: Congratulations to **Petra Morrison**, who has been named European consultant of the year!

Trevor Williams

British Bible School Notes

The joys of Czechs and Slovaks

Having spent the best part of the past fortnight in Central and Eastern Europe, I have once again been so very encouraged by what I have seen of the hand of God at work among people and in places which once seemed so remote from the good news of Jesus.

The Central European Retreat, held in the Czech Republic at Dlouhý-Slavíkov, about 90 miles east of Prague, was a real blessing. There was a beautiful family spirit at this event, demonstrated by the common love among these fellow believers. And there was For those of us with opportunities to grow to know more of those who share faith in Christ Jesus in other parts of Europe, I encourage you to take full advantage of them and be greatly blessed in so doing.

Opportunities at home

Closer to home we are looking ahead to a number of study events we have planned later this year. We have six Study Weekends planned, including a couple in new locations. We will be teaching our module on "Letters from John" at both Great Barr, Birmingham and Wembley, North London; and that on "Galatians" at East Kilbride in

a real joy that permeated the group, many of whom had grown up under the shadows of Communism.

Travelling further east to the beautiful

Slovakian city of Košice, I was privileged to spend time with our brothers and sisters there, along with a number of others who are searching for a closer walk with God. Even in the short time I have been here, I have seen doors being opened and hearts eager to learn more of his word. Indeed, it is this love for the living word of God that characterises so many of those I know in these parts.

I have been greatly encouraged by the bonds of fellowship we have with our brothers and sisters across Europe, and though language might sometimes be seen as a barrier, there is a universal language of love that knows nothing of such differences.



Scotland. Please see the Diary for the dates.

Our first residential Study Week is being held in November in the Lake District. A number are

already booked into this event in which we will be studying our module on "Walking with God", but there is still plenty of space available at this time. We will be spending the best part of a week at Bassenthwaite in the Lake District, and we particularly encourage those who are already engaged in teaching or leading in some capacity to come along and join us. Further details are available on our website.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support of this work. May God bless our fellowship in the gospel.

Patrick Boyns



Gail Mansfield

Gail Mansfield passed away on 4th June in Texas.

Gail and her husband Lloyd visited Britain on a number of campaigns in the late 1960's & 1970's, led by her father Vurel Vick. Eventually they, with their two children, moved to London working among several congregations before moving to Cambridge to begin a congregation there.

They later served in Germany before returning to America. After serving two

congregations in Texas they settled in Muscatine, Iowa, where they worked with the local congregation from 1999-2012. Since then Lloyd has served as the preacher for the Floresville congregation in Texas.

Gail had been ill for the past several years.

We are thankful for their witness to Christ and their willingness to serve. We are thankful for their faithful endeavours for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Trever Williams

Isabell Starrs 1st November 1931 - 24th June 2017

It is with great sadness we report the passing from this life to the next of our dear sister Isabell Starrs at the age of 85.

Isabell was a loving wife to Don, the mother of Ian, and a much loved motherin-law, granny and greatgranny.

She and her husband Don became Christians in 1988 and were long-time Christians, being part of the Glenrothes congregation. Sadly, in recent years, ill-health has prevented them from being at worship. Throughout her illness, Isabell continued to have great faith in God and showed that in her love, kindness and concern for others.

> She will be sadly missed but we rejoice that she is now safe in the arms of Jesus.

Please keep her family in your prayers.

Ian Starrs

The funeral service for Isabell Starrs will take place at the Kirkcaldy Crematorium on Wednesday, 5th July, at 1.30 pm.



Ghana: Appeal for funds.

Please consider helping this good work for the Lord, however small the amount. We

The "church of Christ Ghana Fund" has financially supported two graduates of the British Bible School, John Tamakloe and Stephen Akadjah. They work in the Tema area of Ghana and among



need an extra £100 each month.

Funds can be sent to: Mrs Eileen Wickenden, 9 Hawfinch, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 OWE. You can also phone (01296) 432708 for further information.

Eileen Wickenden

other things have travelled extensively spreading the news of the Jesus. The response they get is tremendous – thousands attend rallies and Malawi: Electrician needed.

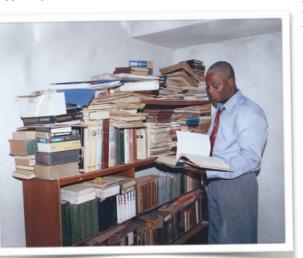
Since 2014 we have been working with a village secondary school in Bulala,

John especially likes to concentrate on Youth Work.

John is also the Head-Teacher of the Tema Christian School – some of the pupils are sponsored by Christians in this country. As well as

a good education they teach the youngsters how to support themselves when they leave school with computing, dressmaking, and other skills.

Ten years ago I had to reduce the amount of financial support due to less being received. We are now at the point that it looks like it might happen again unless we receive more income. This would be terrible for them as they already feel restricted in what they can do with the funds they get.



Northern Malawi. Recently the village has been connected to the electricity grid, and we plan to help the school install lights and sockets in the Headteacher's office, staff room, library, laboratory and one classroom. It is difficult to get qualified electricians locally.

A qualified/experienced

electrician is needed who can volunteer for a ten-day trip, probably around Easter 2018. There is no pay on offer, but we can help with fund-raising for the cost of trip.

If you are interested or can help, please contact Geoff Partington, warmheartmalawi@gmail.com or phone

(07806) 478210.

Geoff Partington

Family News

Ilkeston: On Saturday 17th June we had a special treat as the sisters cooked a huge brunch for the brothers in the congregation as a way of saying thank you for all the work they do. This was a wonderful gift enjoyed by all.

On Sunday 18th June we joined forces with other places of worship in the town for the 'Great Get Together' suggested in memory

of Jo Cox MP who was murdered last year. Our congregation was one of the leading lights for this venture which became a great community celebration. All sorts of crafts and



promote togetherness. Singing was led by Kunle and Paulus for which we are grateful. Food was prepared and set out by the ladies which everyone appreciated – some were seen at the table at least twice! The discussion groups raised many good points for consideration and practical advice to go away with: What is the main thing a congregation exists for? Is

with advice on how, by fulfilling our

common purpose, we maintain unity and

everything we do done with a view to fulfilling that main purpose?

It was encouraging to hear news of what was happening from each congregation represented, in regards to outreach and

games took place during the afternoon and at 5.30 pm it was my privilege to lead the worship. It was fascinating and encouraging to hear around 150 people sing praises *A Capella* which they did remarkably well. Even small congregations have much to offer! activities designed to build up. We had an update on the work of the British Bible School now it does not offer residential courses. It was interesting to note that seven graduates were present at the Men's Day, three of whom were in the first class

Trever Williams

Northampton: Two

wonderful lessons were given by John Griffiths and John Mooney at our recent Men's Day – this set the tone for a great day of fellowship on Saturday 24th June. Using Psalm 133 John Griffiths illustrated very well what it is like when God's people are truly living in unity, something for us to aspire to. John Mooney then continued



of 1979. We are very thankful to all who made it such a great day. Some present had not seen each other for 30 years! What an encouragement to know each were still faithfully serving the Lord.

Greg Contell and Mark Hill were recently appointed as elders. Joseph Agyei was also added to the group of deacons.

Mark Hill

Opportunities

Opportunities for service:

Over the past few years several towns and cities around the country are developing chaplaincy programmes for faithful Christians to visit and encourage in the community. Although those in full-time congregation work may be involved the idea is for many more to go through a short training programme and serve

in a variety of ways. This may be visiting

schools, local businesses, factories, sports

centres, clubs - in fact where ever people

making themselves available to talk to any

one who may wish for a listening ear. Look out for developments where you live and

Trever Williams

see if you can serve in a very gentle and

positive way.

may be. Chaplains will visit premises



at all possible. These men are willing to visit for a few days to several months (in which case they would probably need their own accommodation which they would pay for).

This may be of use

for congregations that are small in number and would like some extra help, even for a short while.

If this is of interest to you, please contact Dick Brant at thinksouls@gmail.com

Richard Brant

<u>Christian Resources Exhibition</u>: A place to find everything necessary for congregation life and perhaps something more. The CRE this year will be held at Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey from 17-19 October. Look up www.creonline.co.uk –

congregation need a little extra help for a few weeks or a couple of months? Through a programme organised through the Bear Valley congregation in Denver, Colorado there are a number of American Christian teachers who are willing to travel to encourage congregations anywhere.

They are willing to provide

Teachers available: Does your

All kinds of everything... for all types of church Read more

Welcome to CRE 2017! Join us at Sandown Park on 17-19 October 2017

this is a great place to see architects, insurers, printers, Sunday School helps, furniture,

transportation costs to the congregations.

The local congregation selects the subjects you want them to teach, dates they should be with you and the length of their stay. Where available the local congregation should also provide housing and meals, if etc. You name it for congregation life and you will find it there. There are also lots of information on group lessons. This is a place I have visited regularly for the past 25 years.

Trever Williams

Around the World

Malawi Dental Mission 2017: Planning for this trip started over a year ago in March

2016, when eight boxes of dental supplies were packed into shipping crates destined for Mzuzu, Malawi. They would take 5 months to get there.

Assembling the group who would go took place in October 2017 after much discussion. Tracy Wilkinson and

Paige Watson, nurses, volunteered their services along with Cedric Mukunzi, a therapist. We decided to fund raise to help cover their costs.

Warm Heart Malawi is an education charity of which I am a trustee. All money donated was put through the account – we were staggered by the generosity of so many. We raised in excess of £5000, well above our target of £3000. In the week before we set

off we were able to purchase dental equipment to leave out there as well as our own generator so we no longer have to hire one.

We flew to Malawi on 6th April. We arrived at Bulala, where our clinic is, on Sunday afternoon after a delay of two

days in Lilongwe waiting for our bags.

We arrived at the clinic on Monday morning to be greeted by a throng of people and chaos. We had planned on



treating 75 people but there were closer to 200! Most who came in were suffering from rotten teeth that had given problems and needed extracting.

> We were able to see in excess of 430 patients from Monday to Friday. There were more needing treatment but we didn't have time. I had to say no to scores of people who just had broken teeth or decayed teeth with no evidence of infection.

On Saturday we set off early and headed to Nkotakota by the lake for two days. It was very pleasant to have a bit of a wind down before the long journey home. The journey home was long but trouble free.

We want to say thank you to all who donated to our trip. There had not been a dentist to visit Bulala since our visit two years ago. We have made a difference – the

> money you have donated has allowed us to invest in equipment to remain in Malawi for Brino, a local dentist, to use and to train others to use to deliver basic dental care and pain relief to people who otherwise would just have to put up with it.

If you would like to see photos and videos from our dental mission then please go to www.youtube.com and search for **Dewsbury Dental Malawi.**

Nick O'Donovan

unteered their c Mukunzi, a fund raise to help education charity all money donated unt – we were ity of so many. We well above our

Breaking News: Update from Greece

Athens Family Retreat: Eleven from the British Isles enjoyed the fellowship in Greece this year.

Whist in ancient Cenchrea one of the students from the United States who had gone over to help was immersed. Later in Athens a middle-aged man was immersed, believing Jesus was the Way. Five of the group continued to Thessaloniki for a one day tour of what is now the second largest city in Greece.

At the time of writing we are currently in Kavala known as Neapolis in Biblical days and the place where the Apostle Paul set foot on European soil. More to follow...

Trever Williams

Notices

We have a portable baptistery available free of charge to any congregation who can use it. The dimensions are: length – 187cm; height – 98cm; depth – 87cm. It can be seen in the back of the photo below (with a tablecloth draped over it).



We use a hose that is directly connected to a hot water pipe to fill it. We had a plumber put the valve in just for this purpose. It was very cheap and well worth it. We store the hose in the empty baptistery until it is time to use it. It takes close to an hour to fill this way. We empty the baptistery with a very good water pump which empties it in about ten minutes. Obviously you have to pump the water somewhere and we simply do it out our window. This may be the major issue for some depending on where they can place the baptistery. It does have an inbuilt water heater but it takes ages to heat that much water so we never use it that way.

We use a wee three-step kind of stool that folds up and is also stored in the empty baptistery. It is very safe and stable although we do have someone standing by the person to be immersed as they step over the edge of the baptistery and into the water. We have never had any difficulty or awkwardness with any of our baptisms and they have been all shapes, sizes, ages and genders. It is very easy to use and the person being baptised is in a very comfortable seated position within the baptistery. There are no safety issues with the baptistery whatsoever.

It is also a very nice piece of furniture and we use it for our Lord's table. We will provide the steps and the pump with the baptistry.

If you would like to have this or would like more information, please contact Adam Barr at: adam@brujnr.me.uk



FIELD OF REFUGE

WOMEN'S RENEWAL 2017



Date: 29 September 2017 for two nights Arrival: Registration at 14:00

Cost: £95.00 per person (shared room with ensuite). Single occupancy is available at a higher rate. Cost includes accommodation and all meals. £35 deposit is required to secure your place.

Email: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com Contact: 07450 296 427 (Yvonne Cass)



British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District

All inclusive cost: £150 per student For full details visit our website: <u>britishbibleschool.com</u>





<u>July</u>

7th-9th – <u>Liverpool</u>: Youth Weekend. Contact Mike Glover (07879 444267 or mike97@talktalk.net) or Lawrence Okorafor (07456 483374 or lawrence.okorafor@yahoo.com).

8th – <u>Edmonton</u>: Men's Workshop – "Breaking the Barriers of Congregation Collaboration" at Northumberland Park Community School, Trulock Road, London N17 0PG, speaker: Garry Smith. Contact: Charles Banin (charlesbanino@aol.com).

15th-22nd – <u>Camp Heatherbell</u>: "AU CH:50". Cost: £135. Contact: Adam Barr (15 Roseburn Court, Whitelees, Cumbernauld G67 3PS).

23rd-**28**th – <u>Camp Maplewell</u>: "Faith Builders" (age 7-13). Contact: Simon Hardy (07435 091041 or simonthehitman@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

23rd-**28**th – <u>Camp Tayside</u>: Contact: Paddy Sullivan.

30th-**4**th **August** – <u>**Camp Maplewell**</u>: "Fruition" (age 13+). Contact Guy Sandison (07791 101397 or guysandison@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

<u>August</u>

5th – <u>Leicester</u>: Ladies' Day – "Mirror, Mirror", 10.00 am-3.00 pm, at Newfound Pool Centre, Pool Road, Leicester LE3 9GH; speakers: Jean Eckman and Pauline Williams. Contact: Janet Hill (07804 685597).

7th**-9**th – **Sheffield:** Vacation Bible Study for children. Contact 07454 884119 and 07508 033534 for more information.

12th – <u>Mitcham</u>: Ladies' Day – "Let the beauty of Christ be seen in you"; venue: South Mitcham Community Centre, SMCA Cobham Court, Haslemere Avenue, Mitcham CR4 3PR. Contact: mitchamcoc@yahoo.com.

12th – <u>Eastwood</u>: Quarterly Outreach meeting: "Jesus, the Messiah" (1–Prophesied, 2– Fulfilled); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

13th-18th – <u>British Bible Camp</u>.

24th-26th – <u>European Christian Workshop</u> at Lancaster: *Shalom*.

<u>September</u>

15th-17th – <u>Gemünden, Germany</u>: European Singles Retreat. Information: http://www.singlesretreat.net.

16th – <u>Great Barr</u>: Annual Fellowship Day.

23rd – <u>Peterhead</u>: Annual Social Day.

29th-**1**st **October** – <u>Field of Refuge</u>: Women's renewal at Tulliallen Castle, Kincardine. Cost: £95.00. Information: <u>fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com</u> or Yvonne Cass (07450 296427).

<u>October</u>

6th-7th – <u>East Kilbride</u>: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm. 7th – <u>Manchester (Stretford)</u>: Special meeting, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

13th**-14**th – <u>Wembley</u>: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 1) presented by Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths.

27th-29th – <u>Livingston</u>: Youth Weekend.

27th-**29**th – <u>Sheffield</u>: Gospel meetings – "Is the Gospel Really Good News?" Contact: 07982 906618 or 07508 033534 for further information.

27th-29th – <u>Peterborough</u>: Ladies' retreat – "The Blame Game – Why Me Lord?" at Holiday Inn West, Peterborough. Cost: £135-185 (twin or single – full payment by 1st September). Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com or 01733 351192 or 07541 333908).

<u>November</u>

3rd-4th – <u>East Kilbride</u>: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Galatians" (part 2) presented by Jack Paton and Mitch Vick. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.
3rd-4th – <u>Great Barr</u>: British Bible School Study Weekend. British Bible School Study Weekend.
Module: "The Letters of John" (part 1) presented by Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths.
4th – <u>Leicester</u>: Fellowship Day, 10.00 am-4.00 pm; speakers: Truit Adair, Gary Walker, Tim Burrow. Contact Paul Hill (paulh41@hotmail.co.uk).

6th-10th – <u>British Bible School</u>: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: "Walking with God" presented by Patrick Boyns and Ian Starrs. Cost for the week (room and board): £150. To register, go to britishbibleschool.com.

10th-11th – <u>East Kilbride & Clarkston</u>: Annual Joint Glasgow-area Gospel Meetings – Friday at East Kilbride, 7.30 pm, Saturday at Clarkston, 7.30 pm, combined Sunday worship at East Kilbride, 10.00 & 11.00 am; speaker: Patrick Boyns. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com) or Jack Paton (jgpaton@glasgowalumni.net).

11th – <u>Eastwood</u>: Quarterly Outreach meeting: "Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King" (1–Prophet, 2– Priest & King); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Bob Eckman. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

17th-18th – <u>Wembley</u>: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

24th-**25**th – <u>Great Barr</u>: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "The Letters of John" (part 2) presented by Steve Whitehead, John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns.

<u>December</u>

2nd – <u>East Kilbride</u>: An afternoon of song. 1.30-5.00 pm.

<u>January 2018</u>

19th-21st – <u>Bassenthwaite Family Retreat</u> at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Organised by the British Bible School.

<u>February</u>

3rd – <u>Cumbernauld</u>: Men's Day.

19th-25th – <u>Gemünden, Germany</u>: Advanced Bible Study Series. ABSS I Monday-Friday, ABSS II Friday-Sunday. For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazle (<u>brazle.paul@gmail.com</u> or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – https:// www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/)

<u>March</u>

10th – <u>Great Barr</u>: Bible Seminar.

<u>July</u>

21st-25th – <u>Commonwealth of Dominica</u>: 8th International Women's Lectureship – "Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come." Contact: eighthiwl2018@gmail.com

<u>September</u>

8th – <u>Great Barr</u>: Fellowship Day.

The Last Word: "Our Communion Bread"



Over the past few months I have been asked for a recipe for communion bread. Now before I start the culinary section let me start off by saying that when we eat communion we are NOT eating Passover. No one knows what sort of grain was eaten at the Passover and so we cannot replicate what was done at the time. Matzos are a modern invention and were not produced until about 100 years ago. There are two sorts of matza: one to eat at any time and the other for Passover use. In this situation the grain has been carefully stored and monitored by a Rabbi

so that no sprouting of the grain has taken place. The Rabbi also attends the bakery and monitors the time from the moment the water touches the flour to the time when it goes into the oven. It has to be done in less than eighteen minutes because wild yeast in the air will multiply within twenty minutes, thus starting fermentation.

Jewish laws and traditions are an absolute minefield and they delight to discuss among themselves just what is right and proper. So we Christians have to decide what is best for our own congregations. Here is a suggestion.

Weigh 1 lb/500 gms ordinary plain flour into a bowl or mixer. Add 1 oz/25 gms baking powder (yes it is allowed). Add 1 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons olive oil. Mix together and add $\frac{1}{2}$ pint/10 oz cold water and mix into a dough. Weigh off 3 oz/75 gms pieces and shape round. Roll out to about three inches, cut into four pieces and place close together (touching) on an oiled baking tray. Bake in a hot oven 200 degrees F for about 8 – 10 minutes until just beginning to colour. This makes 10 loaves that freeze well and only take 30 minutes to thaw on Sunday morning. By getting them into the oven ASAP they are in fact unleavened as it will be within the eighteen minutes.

Remember we are not under the law but under grace. Homemade communion bread is so much nicer than stale matzos that have hung around for weeks. Sometimes I visit congregations who use these and I can taste the mould starting to grow – it is not nice.

For those who wonder why I feel I can write such an article let me just say that I am a qualified baker and caterer.



I hope this helps. Communion is special to us and we do not need anything second rate at the Lord's Table.

Trever